

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1           1.       A method comprising:  
2           generating an asset record in a management system database when an order for  
3 components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered; and  
4           tagging said asset when deployable with an asset identification (ID), said asset ID  
5 uniquely referring to said asset record.

1           2.       A method according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2           generating a purchase order for said components, said purchase order having  
3 characteristics of said asset that could be associated with said asset record in said  
4 database.

1           3.       A method according to claim 2 wherein generating includes:  
2           determining if an existing asset template can be used in generating said purchase  
3 order;  
4           if an existing asset template cannot be used, then creating a new asset template for  
5 said asset; and  
6           utilizing one of said existing asset template and new asset template in said  
7 generating said purchase order.

1           4.       A method according to claim 2 further comprising:  
2           transmitting said purchase order to a supplier;  
3           waiting for ordered components to be received; and  
4           if any ordered components are received, then reading information related to said  
5 received components from the packages containing said received components.

1           5.       A method according to claim 4 further comprising:  
2           storing said information into said management database.

1           6.       A method according to claim 4 further comprising:  
2           determining if said received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified  
3           as deployable.

1           7.       A method according to claim 6 wherein determining includes:  
2           if said asset requires assembly, determining whether all components for assembly  
3           of an asset have been received; and  
4           if said asset requires assembly, and if all components have not been received, then  
5           placing said received components in storage.

1           8.       A method according to claim 7 wherein if said asset requires assembly,  
2           and if all components have been received, then assembling said received components  
3           such that it constitutes a deployable asset.

1           9.       A method according to claim 1 wherein tagging includes:  
2           generating said asset ID as a unique identification within a designated area  
3           containing many different assets.

1           10.      A method according to claim 1 wherein said tagging further includes  
2           generating a sticker incorporating said asset ID therein; and  
3           affixing said sticker to said deployable asset.

1           11.      A method according to claim 10 wherein said sticker is a bar-code  
2           readable sticker.

1           12.     A method according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2           updating the state in said asset management database of said asset to 'deployable'.

1           13.     A method according to claim 9 wherein said designated area is in part or in  
2           whole a data center.

1           14.     A method according to claim 1 wherein configuration information for said  
2           asset is stored in its asset record.

1           15.     A system comprising:  
2           a management system database configured to store an asset record when an order  
3           for components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered, said asset  
4           record indexed by a unique asset identification (ID), said asset ID uniquely referring to  
5           said asset within a facility; and  
6           a connection mechanism coupling said management system database to various  
7           nodes located in said facility, and coupling said management system database to an  
8           inventory database;

1           16.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said facility is a data center.

1           17.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said connection mechanism  
2           includes network connectivity.

1           18.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes  
2           configuration information regarding said asset.

1           19.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes  
2 purchase order information regarding said components of said asset.

1           20.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes state  
2 information regarding said asset.

1           21.     A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset is tagged with a sticker  
2 containing said asset ID.

1           22.     An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions  
2 stored thereon which when executed cause:  
3           generating an asset record in a management system database when an order for  
4 components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered; and  
5           tagging said asset when deployable with an asset identification (ID), said asset ID  
6 uniquely referring to said asset record.

1           23.     An article according to claim 22 which further causes:  
2           generating a purchase order for said components, said purchase order having  
3 characteristics of said asset that could be associated with said asset record in said  
4 database.

1           24.     An article according to claim 23 wherein generating includes:  
2           determining if an existing asset template can be used in generating said purchase  
3 order;  
4           if an existing asset template cannot be used, then creating a new asset template for  
5 said asset; and

6           utilizing one of said existing asset template and new asset template in said  
7   generating said purchase order.

1           25.     An article according to claim 22 which further causes:  
2           transmitting said purchase order to a supplier;  
3           waiting for ordered components to be received; and  
4           if any ordered components are received, then reading information related to said  
5   received components from the packages containing said received components.

1           26.     An article according to claim 25 which further causes:  
2           storing said information into said management database.

1           27.     An article according to claim 25 which further causes:  
2           determining if said received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified  
3   as deployable.

1           28.     An article according to claim 27 wherein determining includes:  
2           if said asset requires assembly, determining whether all components for assembly  
3   of an asset have been received; and  
4           if said asset requires assembly, and if all components have not been received, then  
5   placing said received components in storage.

1           29.     An article according to claim 28 wherein if said asset requires assembly,  
2   and if all components have been received, then assembling said received components  
3   such that it constitutes a deployable asset.

1           30.     An article according to claim 22 wherein tagging includes:  
2           generating said asset ID as a unique identification within a designated area  
3     containing many different assets.

1           31.     An article according to claim 30 wherein said tagging further includes:  
2           generating a sticker incorporating said asset ID therein; and  
3           affixing said sticker to said deployable asset.